## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00750 100637Z ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-07 INR-07 /041 W

-----100908Z 109052 /20

R 100306Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3235

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

CONFIDENTIAL MUSCAT 0750

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: OMANI POSITION ON TRANSIT OF STRAITS USED FOR

INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION

REF: (A) STATE A-1596; (B) STATE A-1647 (NOTAL); (C) MUSCAT 0682 (NOTAL)

1. DCM AND NEA/ARP OFFICER-DESIGNATE DAVID WINN CALLED MAY 7
ON ZAHER AL KINDI, HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY.
DURING BRIEF DISCUSSION ON LAW OF SEA, DCM HANDED KINDI THE
MARCH 10 STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON ON FINANCING OF
DEEP SEABED MINING. DCM ALSO MENTIONED WE HAD RECEIVED
REPORT ON APRIL 6 CALL BY AMBASSADOR MAKKI AND OMANGOV VISITOR
ROWAS ON RICHARDSON, NOTING PARTICULARLY LATTER'S FIRM
REITERATION OF USG POSITION ON STRAITS ISSUE. KINDI REPLIED
THAT OMANGOV HAD RECEIVED ITS OWN REPORT OF THAT CONVERSATION
FROM AMBASSADOR MAKKI. APPARENTLY MAKKI'S REPORT PULLED NO
PUNCHES IN DESCRIBING RICHARDSON'S COMMENTS ON STRAITS PASSAGE,
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FOR ACCORDING TO KINDI IT MADE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY ALAWI "VERY UPSET" WHEN HE READ IT. KINDI IMPLIED OMANGOV IS AT A LOSS TO KNOW TO HANDLE THIS TOUGHNESS "FROM A FRIEND" LIKE THE US.

2. COMMENT: RICHARDSON'S COMMENTS MAY HAVE DONE SOME MUCH NEEDED GOOD. IT IS ONE THING FOR EMBOFFS TO KEEP TELLING

OMANGOV OFFICIALS, AS WE HAVE, THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE ON CONTRADICTORY COURSES IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS OVER THIS ISSUE; IT IS QUITWUANOTHER FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO TELL THEM POINT-BLANK THAT USG WON'T SIGN A TREATY WHICH DOESN'T PROVIDE FOR TRANSIT PASSAGE. AS WE SEE IT, THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO FOLLOW UP THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE WITH SOMETHING OMANIS CAN LATCH ON TO. FROM THEIR VIEW, A PROBLEM OF DIMENSIONS NOT BEFORE APPRECIATED IS LOOMING WITH THE USG, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP THEY VALUE, AND THEY WOULD CERTAINLY PREFER TO RESOLVE IT AMICABLY IF POSSIBLE. END COMMENT.

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